



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY, NORTHEAST

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND

10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY

MAIL STOP, #82

LESTER, PA 19113-2090

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IN REPLY REFER TO

5090

Code EV21/JLC

15 MAY 2002

Mr. Steve Scharf
Project Engineer
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-7015

Dear Steve:

Subj: Draft Record of Decision (ROD) for Operable Unit (OU) 2 -
Groundwater at Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP)
Bethpage, New York; NYS Registry #1-30-003B

The Navy is forwarding the subject Draft ROD for OU 2 for your review and comment. The Navy would like to request that any comments on the enclosed document be returned no later than 21 June 2002.

The Department of Navy recognizes it's responsibilities with regards to the remediation of groundwater contamination emanating from NWIRP Bethpage and, in response, is issuing this Record of Decision for the groundwater operable unit (OU 2) at NWIRP Bethpage, New York pursuant to Executive Order 12580. This Executive Order delegated the President's CERCLA authority to the Department of Defense for releases occurring on or from DoD Installations. Accordingly, DoD re-delegated it's Lead Agency Authority to the individual departments and more specifically, to the Department of Navy (DoN), for CERLCA releases on or from DoN installations.

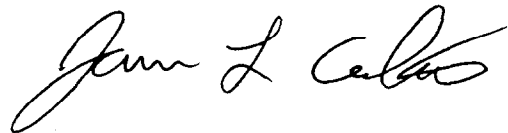
The Navy's ROD for OU 2 at NWIRP Bethpage was developed, and is based upon, NYSDEC's ROD for Regional Groundwater (OU 2) issued in March 2001. However, the Navy has split up NWIRP Bethpage's OU 2 into two parts; on-site groundwater and off-site groundwater. On-site groundwater is defined as groundwater that lies directly beneath the Navy's 105-acre parcel. Off-site groundwater is defined as groundwater that is located downgradient of Navy and Northrop Grumman properties in which VOC contamination from both properties has commingled.

As stated in the enclosed Draft ROD, the Navy's selected remedy for on-site groundwater is the implementation of an institutional control consisting of the placement of a restriction in the deed of transfer to the County of Nassau, New York prohibiting extraction of groundwater from within the boundaries of the 105-acre parcel. The selected remedy is also based on the recognition that an existing groundwater containment and treatment system is operating on downgradient property owned by the Northrop Grumman Corporation. This recognition was based on a similar recognition of the Northrop Grumman Treatment System mentioned in a Record of Decision for the Hooker Chemical/RUCO Polymer Superfund Site, issued in September 2000 and prepared by the Region II office of the USEPA.

In accordance with the Citizen's Participation Plan, developed pursuant to New York State Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 375, a notice of availability will be published in a local newspaper (Bethpage Tribune) announcing a 30-day public comment period for review of the draft ROD. A copy of the Navy's Public Notice is also attached. A copy of the Draft ROD will be placed in the Bethpage Library and the 30-day comment period will run from May 15, 2002 until June 14, 2002. A copy will also be sent to the community members of NWIRP Bethpage's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). Comments received during the public comment period will be reviewed and Navy responses to appropriate comments will be included in a responsiveness summary that will be made part of the Final ROD.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed document, please give me a call at (610) 595-0567, extension 163. Comments may also be emailed to me at colterjl@efane.navfac.navy.mil.

Sincerely,



JAMES L. COLTER
Remedial Project Manager
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: (1) Public Notice
(2) Navy's Draft ROD for OU 2 - Groundwater

Distribution:

NAVAIR, Joe Kaminski
NYSDEC (Albany), Henry Wilkie
NYSDEC (Stony Brook), Stan Farkas
NYSDOH, Bill Gilday
USEPA Region II, Carol Stein
USEPA Region II, Carla Struble
Northrop Grumman, Larry Leskovian
Northrop Grumman, John Cofman
ARCADIS Geraghty & Miller, Carlo San Giovanni
Nassau County DPW, Tim Kelly
Nassau County DOH, Bruce Mackay
Nassau County DOH, John Lovejoy
Town of Oyster Bay, Hon. John Venditto
Town of Oyster Bay DPW, Tom Clark
J.A. Jones, Al Taormina
Admin Record, Bethpage Library
Community Co-Chair, Jim McBride
Community RAB Member, Hon. Ed Mangano
Community RAB Member, Linda Mangano
Community RAB Member, Ed Resch
Community RAB Member, Charles Bevilacqua
Community RAB Member, Roy Tringali
Community RAB Member, Rosemary Styne

Copy to: Bethpage Technical Advisory Committee for Groundwater

J. Molloy (H2M, Inc.)
G. Loesch (H2M, Inc.)
T. Maher (Dvirka & Bartilucci)
R. Burns (Dvirka & Bartilucci)
S. Quadri (USEPA Region II)
A. Palleschi (Hempstead Water District)
R. Krumholtz (Bethpage Water District)
A. Sabino, Esq. (Counsel for Bethpage Water District)
E. Licci, (South Farmingdale Water District)
W. Carmen, Esq. (Counsel for South Farmingdale Water District)
F. Flood (Massapequa Water District)
M. Snyder (New York Water Service)
K. Bishop (Town of Oyster Bay)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT (NWIRP) BETHPAGE, NEW YORK

DRAFT RECORD OF DECISION OPERABLE UNIT 2 - GROUNDWATER

This notice is being provided to inform interested parties that the Department of Navy has prepared a Record of Decision (ROD) that is available for review. The purpose of the ROD is to announce a remedy that will attain selected remediation goals with respect to groundwater contamination beneath and around the Navy's property located at the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Bethpage, New York facility. The ROD discusses a series of remedial actions that will be implemented by the Navy for both on-site groundwater, located beneath NWIRP Bethpage, and off-site groundwater located further downgradient. The Navy's actions that are outlined in this ROD come from a Record of Decision issued in March 2001 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), with consultation from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), regarding groundwater in the Bethpage vicinity in which the Department of Navy has been named as a Potentially Responsible Party by NYSDEC.

Information regarding Site History, Remedial History and Enforcement History, as well as a description of the extent of groundwater contamination and other alternatives considered, can be found by referring to the NYSDEC ROD which was the subject of a Public Meeting held on December 13, 2000, at the Bethpage High School. NYSDEC's ROD for Groundwater incorporated comments received from the community during a public comment period that ran from October 23, 2000 through December 22, 2000.

A copy of the Navy's ROD has been distributed to the USEPA Region II offices, Nassau County Departments of Health and Public Works as well as to various water district authorities within the region and to members of the Bethpage Restoration Advisory Board (RAB); all of whom have been informed of the Navy's plan and will also be reviewing the document. A copy of the Navy's ROD has also been placed in the Navy's Information Repository located at the Bethpage Public Library, 47 Powell Avenue, Bethpage, 11714. Hours of operation for the Library are Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A copy of NYSDEC's March 2001 Groundwater ROD is also located in the Library. Please note that these copies are for review only and can not be removed from the library.

A 30-day public comment period has been established for review of the Navy's ROD for Groundwater starting on **May 15, 2002** and ending on **June 14, 2002**. All public comments must be returned to the address provided below within the 30-day period. Parties interested in obtaining a copy of this document can write to the address below or call Mr. James Colter at (610) 595-0567, extension 163.

**Engineering Field Activity, Northeast
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Attn: Code EV21/JLC
10 Industrial Highway, Mail Stop 82
Lester, Pennsylvania 19113-2090**

RECORD OF DECISION

NAVAL WEAPONS INDUSTRIAL RESERVE PLANT

BETHESSE, NEW YORK

OPERABLE UNIT 2 - GROUNDWATER

YS E-STRY: 1-3-005B

DRAFT



PREPARED BY

ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY, NORTHEAST
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
10 INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY, MAIL STOP 82
LESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19113-2090

MAY 2002

DECLARATION FOR THE RECORD OF DECISION

SITE NAME AND LOCATION

Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP), Bethpage
Town of Oyster Bay
Nassau County, New York
New York Registry Number: 1-30-003B
Funding Source: Environmental Restoration, Navy (ER,N)

STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

The selected remedial action for the NWIRP Bethpage site is presented in this decision document. The selection was made in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, and is consistent with the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). The factual and legal bases for selecting the remedy for this site is summarized in this decision document.

Information regarding Site History, Site Contamination, and Remedial Goals can be found by referring to a Record of Decision (ROD) for Regional Groundwater issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) on March 29, 2001.

A list of documents that comprise the Administrative Record for the site is presented in Appendix B to the NYSDEC ROD. The documents in the Administrative Record also provide the bases of the Navy's Record of Decision.

ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE

Actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from this site, if not addressed by implementing the response action described in this Record of Decision (ROD), present a current or potential threat to human health and the environment.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTED REMEDY

The remedial action described in this document represents the second remedial phase or operable unit involving the NWIRP Bethpage site. It addresses on-site contaminated groundwater beneath the Navy's 105-acre parcel and it addresses the off-site, commingled portion of the contaminated groundwater plume located downgradient of the NWIRP Bethpage and Northrop Grumman Corporation facilities.

The major component of the selected remedy for the ON-SITE GROUNDWATER portion of OU 2 includes the following:

1. An **institutional control** consisting of the placement of a restriction in the deed of transfer to the County of Nassau, New York prohibiting extraction of groundwater from within the boundaries of the 105-acre parcel located at the Navy's former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Bethpage facility. In order to aid in the compliance with the deed restriction, the Navy has completed the abandonment of the seven (7) deep production wells formerly located on the 105-acre parcel. These production wells were used for the extraction of groundwater for use as non-contact cooling water to support operations conducted by the Northrop Grumman Corporation during a time when Northrop Grumman leased the 105-acres from the Navy.

With regards to the portion of OU 2 that deals with the off-site component of the commingled groundwater contaminant plume, the Navy's remedy was based upon the Record of Decision (ROD) developed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and issued on March 29, 2001. This ROD outlined several actions that NYSDEC is requiring to be taken by either of the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) that would address threats to human health and the environment from groundwater contamination. Their selected remedy includes a number of response measures which have been categorized into a Groundwater Remedial Program and a Public Water Supply Protection Program.

The major components of the NYSDEC remedy for the OFF-SITE GROUNDWATER portion of OU 2 that the Department of Navy will take responsibility for as part of this Record of Decision includes the following:

Groundwater Remedial Program

1. Mass contaminant removal through groundwater extraction and treatment in an offsite area where total VOC concentrations are significantly higher than throughout the remainder of the groundwater contaminant plume. This area has been designated as the GM-38 Area. Components of this action will include:
 - a) **Pre-Design Investigation** consisting of the installation of several Vertical Profile Borings (VPBs) to determine the extent of the GM-38 "hot-spot";
 - b) A **Remedial Design** that provides the details necessary for the construction and implementation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system. The design will incorporate information obtained from a groundwater computer model in which different transport simulations will be conducted in order to optimize the location of groundwater extraction well(s) and injection well(s), if deemed necessary;
 - c) A **Remedial Action** that implements the components of the Remedial Design;
 - d) **Long-Term Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring** of the operating systems associated with the GM-38 Area remedy.

Public Water Supply Protection Program

1. **Field Investigation** that includes the installation of Vertical Profile Borings to delineate the southern extent of the commingled groundwater plume;
2. Development of a **Public Water Supply Well Contingency Plan** consisting of the following actions:
 - a) Groundwater Modeling of data collected from Southern VPB installation to determine horizontal location of outpost wells as well as vertical placement of well screen(s) for each well or well cluster;
 - b) Development of trigger values for each well using Groundwater Modeling data to aid in the determination for the earliest possible start date to initiate discussions with the appropriate water district to address the issue of wellhead treatment;
3. A **Remedial Action** consisting of the installation of Outpost Monitoring Wells in locations specified in the Public Water Supply Contingency Plan;
4. A **Remedial Action** consisting of public water supply wellhead treatment or comparable alternative measures, as necessary, for wellfields that become affected in the future. This action will consist of the upfront payment to an appropriate water district to compensate for capital and operation & maintenance expenditures that would be required to install wellhead treatment. The agreement would be in form of a contract between the United States Government and the appropriate water district and would involve a one-time, lump sum payment for capital costs for a typical treatment system and 30 years of O&M funds discounted to present value. Exact details of each agreement will be discussed if a trigger value on a well is met or exceeded.

The selected remedy is also based on the recognition that an existing groundwater extraction and treatment system (Northrop Grumman Treatment System), which is operating as a component of NYSDEC's ROD for OU 2 Groundwater at the downgradient Northrop Grumman Corporation Site, is containing and remediating a commingled plume of chlorinated VOC contamination from the Northrop Grumman, NWIRP Bethpage, and Hooker/RUCO sites. The Navy's selected remedy, as outlined in this document, together with the Northrop Grumman Treatment System, which is expected to continue to operate for at least the next thirty (30) years, will prevent further migration of groundwater contamination and will effectively address the contamination emanating from the NWIRP Bethpage facility.

If it is determined during the implementation of the selected remedy that the institutional controls along with the Northrop Grumman Treatment System are not effective in containing groundwater emanating from the NWIRP Bethpage facility, the Navy will re-evaluate the protectiveness of the selected remedy.

DECLARATION

The selected remedy is protective of human health and the environment, complies with State and Federal requirements that are legally applicable or relevant and appropriate to the remedial action to the extent practicable. Because this remedy will result in hazardous substances remaining at the Site above levels that allow for unlimited use of and unrestricted exposure to the Site, a review will be conducted at least every five years after commencement of remedial action to ensure that the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

Date

JOHN L. BALL, CAPT, CEC, USN
by Direction of the
Commander, Naval Air Systems Command